

Attorney Docket No.: 0120101
Application Serial No.: 10/054,359

REMARKS

By the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 6, 11 and 13, and cancelled claims 2-3, 5 and 10. After the present amendment, claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11-34 are pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-34, and the Examiner's statement regarding allowability of claims 3, 6-7 and 11-13. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11-13 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Lambrecht (USPN 6,181,800) ("Lambrecht").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of present application, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 3 and its intermediate claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, based on the Examiner's statement that claim 3 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

B. Rejection of Claims 5 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 8-9, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lambrecht in view of Tucker, et al. (USPN 5,742,689) ("Tucker").

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejection of claim 5 has been rendered moot.

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Further, claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 should be allowed at least for the same reasons claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

C. Rejection of Claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 4, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lambrecht in view of Orduna-Bustamante, et al. (USPN 5,862,227) ("Orduna-Bustamante").

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot.

Further, claim 4 depends from claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, claim 4 should be allowed at least for the same reasons claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

D. Rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 10, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Lambrecht.

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's rejection of claim 10 has been rendered moot.

E. Objection to Claims 3, 6-7 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 6-7 and 11-13 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

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By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's objection to claim 3 has been rendered moot.

By the present amendment, applicant has amended dependent claim 6 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, prior to this amendment, and its intermediate claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits claim 6, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, based on the Examiner's statement that claim 6 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Moreover, applicant has amended dependent claim 11 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, prior to this amendment, and its intermediate claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits claim 11, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, based on the Examiner's statement that claim 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

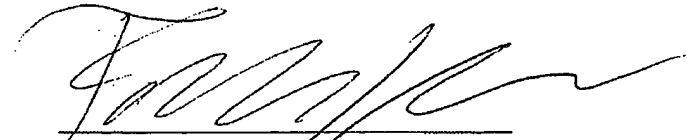
Also, applicant has amended dependent claim 13 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1, prior to this amendment, and its intermediate claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits claim 13, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, based on the Examiner's statement that claim 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

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F. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early notice of allowance for claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11-34 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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